

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace the paragraph that begins at page 15, line 34 with the following amended paragraph.

In operation, of this portion of the ALC 240, the reference signal is received at the input port 251 and the common-mode level of the reference signal (established in the buffer amplifier 202 of FIG. 9) is coupled to the first gate of the differential pair 244 via the low-pass filter 243 which substantially removes the time varying portion of the reference signal. An embodiment of the low-pass filter 243 is shown in FIG. 10A to comprise a series resistor followed by a shunt capacitor which provides the common-mode level to the first gate of the differential pair 244. The input differential pair 244 steers its tail current through its active load 250 and this operation transfers the common-mode level from the first gate to the second gate of the input differential pair and thereby, to the junction 255 between the upper and lower threshold selectors 246 and 247.